AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A thermoplastic reinforcing material for ~~the~~ shoe production, in the form of a hot-melt adhesive/filler material compound, characterized in that it comprises

a) one or several hot-melt adhesive(s) in amounts of 50 to 95 weight %, with MVR values (measured at 100 °C, 21.6 kg based on DIN ISO 1133) ranging from 2 to 300 cm^3/10 min ~~, preferably from 10 to 20 cm3/10min~~ and

b) one or several filler materials in amounts of 50 to 5 weight %, which do not dissolve in the hot-melt adhesive; and

~~that~~ the hot-melt adhesive/filler material compound simultaneously meets the following parameters by having:

1) an MVR value between 2 and 6 cm^3/10 min~~, preferably between 3 and 5 cm3/10min~~;

2) a surface stickiness/tack/ measured according to DIN EN 14610 at 65°C of at least 10N to maximally 60N~~, preferably 15N and especially preferred 30N~~;

3) a bonding value/peeling strength/ toward top materials and linings of at least 30 N/5 cm, measured on the basis of DIN 53357;

4) a maximum longitudinal extension of 25%~~, preferably less than 20%,~~ measured after 5 minutes in [[the]] a hot cabinet at temperatures of 90°C.

2. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A thermoplastic reinforcing material for ~~the~~ shoe production in the form of a hot-melt adhesive/filler material compound as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the component **a**, the hot-melt adhesive, comprises a mixture of 1) a linear polyester in amounts of 75 to 95 weight % and/or a thermoplastic polyurethane in amounts of 75 to 95 weight %, together with 2) ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers in amounts of 0 to 25 weight % with a vinyl acetate content of 10 to 40 weight %~~, preferably 15 to 25 weight %~~ and that the filler material is present in an amounts of 50 to 5 weight %~~,~~ and is selected from the group of inorganic, mineral filler materials, organic plant filler materials, plastic materials and mixtures thereof, which are present in the form of spherical, polyhedral particles with a particle-size distribution between 45

and 1000μm, ~~preferably 45 to 500μm,~~ or in the form of fibers with a length of 45 to 1000μm, ~~preferably 45 to 500μm~~.

3. (Original) The reinforcing material as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the filler material is wood flour with a particle-size distribution of 45 to 500μm.

4. (Previously presented) The reinforcing material as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the filler material is chalk with a particle size distribution of 10 to 45μm.

5. (Original) The reinforcing material as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the surface stickiness/tack/ of the hot-melt adhesive/filler material compound has a value of 25 to 45N.

6. (Original) The reinforcing material as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the longitudinal extension of the hot-melt adhesive/filler material compound is less than 20%, measured at temperatures of 90°C.

7. (Original) A method for producing the thermoplastic reinforcing material for the shoe production in the form of a hot-melt adhesive/filler material compound as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the hot-melt adhesive is melted on and that the filler material is added to the hot melt by means of a metering device and is worked in by stirring and kneading, that the moisture and exiting gases are suctioned off with a degassing device, that the resulting plastic mass is subjected to another vacuum degassing, and that the plastic mass, pre-treated in this way, is conveyed away for further processing.

8. (Original) The method for producing the thermoplastic reinforcing material for the shoe production in the form of a hot-melt adhesive/filler material compound as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the hot-melt adhesive/filler material compound is granulated, that the granulated material is melted again and is then processed further by means of extrusion or calendering to form a flat foil.

9. (Original) The method for producing the thermoplastic reinforcing material for the shoe production in the form of a hot-melt adhesive/filler material compound as defined in claim 1, characterized in that the hot-melt adhesive/filler material compound is processed further as raw material into reinforcing parts, using injection-molding machines.

10. (Previously Presented) A fine powder having a particle-size distribution of 50 to 1000 µm for producing a flat foil, wherein the fine powder is formed from a hot-melt adhesive/filler material compound as defined in claim 1.

11. (Previously Presented) A three-dimensional reinforcing part formed from a fine powder having a particle-size distribution of 50 to 1000 µm, which is formed from a hot-melt adhesive/filler material compound as defined in claim 1.

12. (Currently Amended) Shoes comprising a reinforcing material as defined in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 11~~ or 2.

13. (New) A thermoplastic reinforcing material according to claim 1, wherein the one or several hot-melt adhesive(s) have MVR values from 10 to 20 cm^3/10 min.

14. (New) A thermoplastic reinforcing material according to claim 1, wherein the hot-melt adhesive/filler material compound has an MVR value between 3 and 5 cm^3/10 min.

15. (New) A thermoplastic reinforcing material according to claim 1, wherein the hot-melt adhesive/filler material compound has a surface stickiness/tack of at least 15N.

16. (New) A thermoplastic reinforcing material according to claim 1, wherein the hot-melt adhesive/filler material compound has a surface stickiness/tack of at least 30N.

17. (New) A thermoplastic reinforcing material according to claim 2, wherein the vinyl acetate content is 15 to 25 weight %.

18. (New) A thermoplastic reinforcing material according to claim 2, wherein the filler material is present in the form of spherical, polyhedral particles with a particle size distribution between 45 and 500μm, or in the form of fibers with a length of 45 to 500 μm.